

**Council on Aging Board**  
**Minutes of October 9, 2002 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Bettyann Chamberlin, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager, CMAA representative Vicki Zwerdling and SCPC representative Dolores Lake were also present. Board member Al Crommett was excused for medical reasons.

**Chairman's Comments:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:05am. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted after some discussion and modifications made in paragraph six regarding the MIS department. Paul then distributed a Property Tax Bulletin made available by William Galvin, the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The bulletin presents information on tax exemptions and deferral for elder citizens. The board was asked to review the bulletin and be prepared to discuss it at the November meeting. Paul indicated that our current tax work off limit would be raised from \$500 currently to \$750 next year. Age Center issues update was deferred to later in the meeting.

**Director's Comments:**

The Director reported on the results of the recent disaster drill held to demonstrate the town's response to a simulated chemical spill affecting water supplies. Apparently the personnel response was positive.

Sharon reported that the COA had been awarded a \$550 grant for pharmaceutical-related activity; this will be used to publicize our screening programs.

Sharon discussed her graduate program activity, which will at some point involve the COA board doing an assessment of her performance in a more formal way.

**Liaison Reports:**

CMAA—Vicki reported that the agency is planning further assessment of needs and especially unmet needs in the area.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.—Helene reported that the "Jail and Bail" activity had raised nearly \$2500.00, which will be applied to the construction of Bocce courts behind the center. Plans are being developed for them at the moment and volunteers are being recruited for the project.

Shrews Comm Part Children—Dolores reported that the program currently has 50-60 participants reading at various locations including the new "Mulberry Day Care" facility on west Main Street.

Elder Home Care Services of Worc, Inc.—Betty reported that she had attended a finance committee meeting at which the latest budget cuts at the State level were presented—their impact is reduced home services available which has increased the waiting list.

**Old Business:**

A schedule assessment workshop was discussed and set for 6 November at 10am.

Lillian reported that the Health Fair held during the fall festival was very well attended with about 160 evaluation responses received from those who attended. The lunch was well received despite the rainy day forcing us indoors.

The Transportation Department's grant for a new van is still pending.

MCOA conference issues are all set.

Mr. Dennis Osborn of the Shrewsbury Housing Authority, met with the Director to inform us that he has some funding which may be directed toward outreach for residents of senior housing. We plan to coordinate this with COA outreach activities.

With regard to the issue of MIS support, correspondence exchanges have taken place between COA and MIS departments. The result will be further training for our director & assistant to the director in troubleshooting computer problems and an attempt by MIS to assist further at the time of newsletter mailing.

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary